

## Stockton to Unveil Portraits of 4 Previous Presidents at Inauguration of Harvey Kesselman on Sept. 23

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Galloway , N.J. - When Stockton UJ “Each of Stockton’s four presidents was a mentor to me,” said Kesselman, v  
Stockton’s first class. “Richard Bjork established a community that welcomed and supported  
students, including first-generation college students such as myself. Peter Mitchell hired me fo  
my first job here, as a tutor for the Education Opportunity Fund (EOF). Vera King Farris pushe  
me to get advanced degrees because she said she saw potential in me, and Herman Saatkan  
supported my work as dean and then provost by establishing new schools at Stockton.

“Each of them played an enormous role during the 45-year journey that has brought Stockton  
from a brand-new, small college in the woods to a nationally recognized university,” Kesselma  
continued. “I am honored to continue their legacy of excellence in teaching, support for  
scholarship and dedication to service.”

Kesselman had requested that the presidents’ portraits be painted in planning t

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receiving specialized security training, he conducted numerous special operations missions overseas. Much of his work has been influenced by the transformative events he experienced while deployed, he said.

He earned his MFA from the New York Academy of Art in May 2015, and currently lives in Brooklyn, N.Y. During his time at the Academy, he received the Academy Scholarship, the New Jersey Heart of a Hero Scholarship and was awarded a summer residency in Moscow. His work was recently published in an acclaimed book, "The Figure."

"Painting Stockton's presidents was an honor in which I took great pleasure," Raczkowski said. "By the end of the project, I felt as if I have known each of them personally, as if we were old friends. This mosfel( T(y)8.8(5 -1.152 Toe((e depl)(( T(yD 7 >>B9.a(ol).152 Toa(oj)-8.3(ec)8 >>B9.a(oa(ear)

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Other speakers will include: State Sen. Christopher Connors, R- 9<sup>th</sup>, a 1978 Stockton graduate; state Sen. James Whelan, D- 2<sup>nd</sup>; President George A. Pruitt of Thomas Edison State University; Michael Klein, executive director of the N.J. Association of State Colleges and Universities; and Richard Dovey, chair of the University Foundation and a member of Stockton's first graduating class of 1975.

Faculty Senate President Brian Tyrrell and Student Senate President Maryam Sarhan will offer their groups' salutations. Board Chair Deininger will serve as the host and provide welcoming and closing remarks.

For more information and to RSVP to attend the inauguration, visit [Stockton.edu/president/inauguration](http://Stockton.edu/president/inauguration).

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